## A MANTLE OF SNOW

Richmond Traveler Has Not Seen Naked Ground for Many Days.

LETTERS OF MR. GENTRY

Exceptionally Lively and Interesting Description of Canada and Canadians.

In the selections below is given the journal of a Richmond man who left Virginia and traveled North to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where he is at present. The writer is Mr. Thomas W. Gentry, now connected with the New York office of the American Locomotive Works. He is the father of Mr. T. Christian Gentry, No. 10 South Pine Street, and is well known to many peo-

January 5th, at noon, I came to St. John via Boston, and from there here via Truro and Stellaston. This is the heart of the Nova Scotia coal mining country, and is pretty well up in the east Maratine Province of Canada. At Truro I was only about 50 miles from Halifax. I have not seen the ground since I left home the night of January 2nd, as the snow was some inches deep on arrival in Washington, and it was still deeper in West Virginia (had to go to Elkins), and extended through all the country between there and here, and there are no prospects of my seeing naked ground again until I get back to New York, if then, Since leaving Virginia I have passed through eleven States, the District of Columbia and provinces of New Brunswick and Novia Scotia. The States are as follows: West Virginia, Maryland, Délaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut. Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine; and in all of them the whole country was under a mantle of snow.

Out here, or rather "down here," as all the natives say, I do not suffer from the cold to the extent I had anticipated; in fact, I enjoy it. The stelghing is delightful, and I have already fallen quite in love with it. Everything is on runners from a baby carriage to a hearse, absolutely no wheeled vehicles are seen, not even a wheel-barrow—a push sled takes its place. The bables are pushed around in a small sied with haddles at the back like a perambulator.

The deep and continued snows provent except on the season and great sheds or rinks are constructed with a big sheet of water enclosed, and skating, curling, hockey, and other sports on ice are indulged in, and at night they are lighted by electricity and present a beautiful sight. Water is rin on them after the rink is closed, and a fresh smooth surface is given every day.

fresh smooth surface is given every

a fresh smooth surface is given every day.

Out doors there is sleighing tobogganing, coasting, "bob slidding" and sriow shoe walking, and winter is made the festive season.

The summer and fall in this country is perhaps the most glorious on earth. It is a paradise for the sportsmen, and fishing and hunting is no better in pny part of the world. Salmon, trout, bass, pickerel and all the truly game fish are found, and game in season is from a rabbit to a caribon, including clk, deer, bear and other large game; and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundiand, both near by, are even better for fishing. I will return to St. John, New Brunswick, via Moncion, and will write you from there. There is a probability of having to visit Montreal and Ottawa.

trains. The one I wanted was over an hour late, and it was a case of wait. The station was a stuffy little place, packed full of, women and children, and it was awfully cold and still snowing. Finally the train came along and I got a nice warm seat in the Pullman car. But about the time I got nice and com-

### Look at the Brand! Walter Baker's Cocoa and Chocolate





The FINEST in the World Costs Less than One Cent a Cup Forty Highest Awards in Europe and America

Walter Baker & Co. Ltd. Established 1780 Dorchester, Mass. The Importations for the Year 1903 of

## G. H. MUMM & Co.'s

Champagne

were 121,528 CASES

GREATER by nearly 20,000 cases than the importations of any other brand.

The Extra Dry of the superb new vintage now arriving is conceded to be the choicest Champagne produced this decade.

fortable I had to get out at a little place, Springhill, and had to ride 5 miles through the snow to the mines, where I

Street, and is well known to many people of Richmond. The record of his experiences and of the conditions, climatic and otherwise, prevailing in the far North, is interesting in the extreme, likewise his description of Canada and Canadiana as they have come under his notice.

The letters were written during the present month and were addressed to lifs son. Selections from them follow:

New Glascow, N. 8.04.

Loaving New York city Saturday, January St, at noon, I came to St. John via Boaton, and from there here via firm the street of the Nova Scotla coal mining country, and is pretty well up in the east Maratine Province of Canada. At Truro I was only about 50 miles from Haiffax, I have not seen the ground since I left home the night of January 2nd, as the sadw was some inches deep on arrivaria Washington, and it was still deeper in West Virginia, that one ground since a life of the Nova Scotla coal mining country, and extended throughers, and thore are no prospects of my seeing maked ground ugain until I get back to New York, if them, Since leaving Virginia I have passed through eleven States, the District of Columbia and provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotla. The States are is, follows: West Virginia, Maryland, caxtended throughers, and thore are no prospects of my seeing maked ground ugain until I get back to New York, if them, Since leaving Virginia I have passed through eleven States, the District of Columbia and provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotla. The States are is, follows: West Virginia, Maryland, Celaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vew York, Connecticut. Rhode Island, dissaschuselts, New Hampshire and daine; and in all of them the whole ountry was under a mantie of snow; as if the matter say of the states are is follows: west virginia and siles of the states are in the train of

or snow.

The food out here is very fair. Turkeys are plentiful, and shoat, mutton, beef, etc., very good. Apples are abundant, and you can always get the best of fish. There is a plenty to drink in Moneton, but Glasgow was a "dry town." As I close this the blizzard is still raging. The snow is coming down in a blinding sheet, you can scarcery see across the street. I never did see it snow so hard before, and am afraid all the trains will be snowed up.

. Moncton, N. B.

pickerel and all the truly game ish are found, and game in season is from a rabbit to a carrbon, including elk, deer, bear and other large game; and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundiand, both near by, are even better for fishing. I will return to St. John, New Brunswick, via Moncton, and will write you from there. There is a probability of having to visit Montreal and Ottawa.

Moncton, New Brunswick, January 17, 1904.

I left New Giasgow yesterday morning at 7:20; it was hardly dayligat and snowing. Had to get up at 8 o'clock and ate breakfast before 7 o'clock, and you may know it went pretty hard with me to be getting up so soon.

I had to go to a small place in Nova Scotia called Truro, where I had to leave the train I was on and change trains. The one I wanted was over an hour late, and it was a case of wait.

When the season is from a rabbit to a carrbon, including elk, deer, bear and other large game; and Prince Edward in Should in the leave of an Moncton, N. B.

January 18, 1904.

Four feet of snow and 18 below zero. This is the record at Moncton to disagreable cold I ever felt. I have been in St. Pall, Minnesota, whone it was 25 degrees below zero, but never felt the cold so keenly. It is due to the moisture, Moncton, Ne. B.

January 18, 1904.

Four feet of snow and 18 below zero. This is the record at Moncton to day, and I think it the rawest and most disagreable cold I ever felt. I have been in St. Pall, Minnesota, whone it was 25 degrees below zero, but never felt the cold so keenly. It is due to the moisture, Moncton, Ne. B.

January 18, 1904.

Four feet of snow and 18 below zero. This is the record at Moncton to day, and I think it the rawest and most disagreable cold I ever felt. I have been in St. Pall, Minnesota, whone it was 25 degrees below zero, but never felt the cold so keenly. It is due to the moisture, Moncton the rawest and most disagreable cold I ever felt. I have been in St. Pall, Minnesota, whone it was 25 degrees below zero, but never felt the rawest and most disagreable cold I ever is so sudden here that a solid wall of water 4½ to 5 feet rushes up the river channel and on past the city, and spends its force near the headwaters. It has a speed of over ten miles per hour, and is the "sight" of the city.

Bea gulls, fish hawks and other sea fowl fly along screaming and fighting at the head of the big wave, catching fish and refuse that is hurled up by the water.

ter.

Moncton is a junction point on the Intercolonial Raliway of Canada, one branch of the main line from Montreal going off to Halifax, and the other to St. John from here. It is also the official and mechanical headquarters of the raliway, which is a government affair. The American Locomotive Co., have built a great many engines for the read in the past five years; many of them were built at Richmond.

I have been further north and east on 5

a great many engines for the road in the past five years; many of them were built at Richmond.

I have been further north and east on this trip than I had ever been before, having sone un nearly to Cape Breton, and 275 miles northeast of Halifax, it must be a delightful country in summer and fall, and is even levely now, though covered with snow and ice, Nearly all the forest trees are evergreen—white pline, fir, cedar, hemlock, spruce, and others of the pine and cedar varieties, and when fringed with snow look beautiful. The rivers, lakes and even small bays are frezon over, and I saw them cutting ice here to-day about two feet thick from a small fresh lake.

I paid a visit to the great coal mines at Springhill. Nova Scotia, Saturday, January 16, and took in the process from the "vein" to the "tipple," i. e., from where it is dug out from between the layers of stone or slate until it is raised, screened, picked, assorted and weighed into the cars. The shaft is 4.500 feet deep, and extends from two to three miles in galleries and levels. The vein of coal dips at an an angle and averages six feet thick. There are many mines in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia even larger than this. Among other things that interested me was a big consolidation engine built by the "Richmond Works" in 1802, while I was in Australia. I did not know the engine was "down here."

I think I told you I expect to go to Mexico next. Will be at the New York office January 23, and will try and stop in Richmond on my way to the land of the cactus.

Mr. Hugh G. Miller in Michigan. Mr. Hugh Gordon Miller, of Norfolk, as-sistant district attorney, 's in Median, where on Thursday night he delivered an address to the Gridley Club of Jone, Mich. Mr. Miller is expected home in a day or two.

#### GERMAN FORCES ARE BESIEGED

Kaffirs and Hereros Have, Effected a Junc-

(By Associated Press.)

BERLIN, Jan. 30.—The commander of the German gunboat Habicht, lying at Swakopmua', German Southwest Africa, cables that he has received news from Lieutenant Zuelow, in command of the German forces at Okahandja, that the Kaffirs have effected a junction with the Hereros, who are besleging that post. As Okahandja was already hard pressed, the announcement has caused concern at the Colonial Office here.

The following dispatch from Lieutenant Zuelow, sent by messenger via Karlbib, was received her to-day:

"Okahanj January 20.

"Am hoking Okahandja. Occupied it January 15th with 200 men, after heavy fighting. Am waiting for guns from the Habicht. Ask for a division of artillery. Weak relief corps, with machine gun from Winfheek, repulsed twelfth and thirteenth. Loss reported, eight reserver." (By Associated Press.)

thirteenth. Loss reported, eight re-

A later dispatch, dated January 21st,

A later dispatch, dated January 21st, says:
"Yesterday afternoon, near Kawatuerasene, between Waldau and Okasise, there was a sharp fight. A division, about seventy men strong, sent forward by rall, lest four dead and three slightly wounded. The enemy lost twenty to twenty-

five dend.
"W can hold out for some time yet."

#### WYTHE COUNTY HAS ITS LAST COUNTY COURT

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WYTHEVILLE, VA., Jan. 30,—The close of Wythe County Court to make way for the new court system was fittingly celebrated. On the last day of the term the members of Wythe county bar met in the court-room and paid their respects to the outgoing judge and clerk, and passed resolutions, whose entry on the minute book forms the last business of the period of forty years during which this court has been in existence.

Mr. A. A. Campbell acted as chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Robert Sayers, Jr., was its secretary.

Mr. C. B. Thomas, the senior member of the Wytheville bar, presented Judge William E. Fulton, the retiring county judge, with a handsome cane from the members of the bar, making a neat speech. Judge Fulton made a tasteful and feeling response.

Judge John H. Fulton then made a speech, presenting to the retiring clerk, Captain William B. Foster, a beautiful chain. Judge Fulton's speech was full of eloquence and humor. He and Captain Foster are the only ones left of the old County Court system who were connected with it when it began.

After the adoption of resolutions each member of the bar made an address, all of them being appropriate, and in all of which proper tribute was paid to Judge Fulton and Captain Foster. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

### DISCOVERS CAUSE OF EXPLOSION

It has been the theory of the inspectors

It has been the theory of the inspectors that the gas was lighted by a defective shot, one that was not properly tamped, and which threw a bit of burning paper from the hole drilled in the coal. This was confirmed in a room in the south left entry, where a hole was found in the coal, showing that the tamping had been blown out, and that the shot was ineffective. Near this point was found the lamp of Fire Boss J. A. Gordon, who was also the head shooter in the mine.

When the work of recovering bodies was stopped this evening the remains of 190 victims had been taken out. It is estimated that twenty more are buried under the extensive fall of slate brough about by the explosion, and it will be several days before they can be recovered.

#### The New China Store Free Cooking School INSTRUCTIONS FREE TO ALL.

A Few of Our Many Specials.

Three and Four Quart Gray 29c Enameled Tea or Coffee Pois, Silver Plated Tea Spoons, 19c Imported Decorated Covered 49c Breakfast Plates, with scal-loped edges, a dozen........... 43c

24c for 35c. size Handled Sauce Pots, blue and white enameled. Solid Color Creps Paper, all 8c

Browne & Constine. "OUR PRICES MAKE CUSTO MERS." 205 East Broad Street.

## SNOW VERY EXPENSIVE

It Comes Freely and Lightly Enough, But Costs the Cities Thousands of Dollars.

A SMALL FORTUNE IN SLEDS

Money Represented by Them on Streets a Most Desirable Fortune.

Few luxuries are ever so expensive to a city as snow. It comes so kindly and freely, but it is heavy when it is moved, and it is difficult and costly to get rid of. If the street cleaning department undertakes to clear the thoroughtares of it, the present visitation will cost the city, as a government, hundreds of dollars, while another large sum will be paid by the residents to get the side-walks in front of their houses cleaned walks in front of their houses cleaned off.

walks in front of their houses cleaned off.

Hundreds of men, either in the employ of the city, the street car company, or citizens, were put to work early yesterday morning moving the monster from the sidewalk to the street. The work had hardly gotten well in hand before it came to haught by the snowman's getting out another edition of his pure white sheet. Citizens throw the bleached article into the street, the street car company's snow plows pile it up on each side of their tracks, and it devolves upon Superintendent Cohn and his men to get the whole business out of the way, so that traffic in vehicles may be carried on. Hundreds of carriods are hauled away with as clear a conscience as if it were garbage or ashes, and it is dumped into the giver or dock, as may be convenient.

COSTS SEVERAL FORTUNES.

In the large Northern cities thousands upon ihousands of dollars are spent every winter in getting the beautiful snow out of the way. In New York it is carted to lighters, towed down the bay and dumped. Quite frequently in Richmond a snow is followed by much higher

is carted to lighters, towed down the bay and dumped. Quite frequently in Rich-mond a snow is followed by much higher temperature, and rain and the sowers take the place of city carts. But all the morning vesterday men with shovels were seen going from door to door getting contracts for cleaning off the snow. Of course, as soon as the second supply began to come, an effort at cleaning was suspended.

course, as soon as the second supply began to come, all effort at cleaning was suspended.

With house-owners the snow on the roof is a far more serious problem than snow on the sidewalk. The weight upon the house is enormous, and when the melting time comes few roofs will not leak or be seriously damaged.

A genuine snowstorm has the effect to revolutionize life in a city for a day or so. It brings about a demand for certain goods that the merchant rarely has a call for any other time during the year. Sleds, rubber boots and overshoes are in special demand. Newspapers and magazines are also more than ordinarily popular. Men stay in the house at night and they want something to read. The newspapers do a far better business in such bad weather than on other occasions, One news, dealer, said late yestorday that he had sold sub-every. Richmond and every New!!Tork paper he had, because the boys had gone off the streets early, and, furthermore, the people were planning to spend the evenings at home reading.

Thousands of dollars were represented in the children's sleds on the streets yesterday, and many parents went down into their pockets for hard-earned coin with which to buy other sleds. Grown people may fume and fret, but the children, the real philosophers of life, are happy and are having the "time of their life."

The Brook Avenue Mission.

"The bond of neighborhood is the most human, yea even the most divine of all honds. Every man you meet is your brother and must be for good or evil."

In these days of social settlements of neighborhood houses and of all helpful organizations based on the brotherhood of man, the free kindergartens feel a pardonable pride, as they reflect that they have been in and of this work from the beginning. "The kindergarten is as yot but a grain of mustard seed, which has scarcely begun to sprout; but it is rooted in all good things, it is related to all forward movements and is destined to grow until, as Froebel saw it in prophetic vision, it becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the brunches thereof."

Four years ago "the Woman's Christian Association," of this city, started a free kindergarten on Brook Avenue for the little children of the neighbor-The Brook Avenue Mission.

(By Associated Press.)

PITTSPURG, PA., Jan. 30.—Mine Inspector Cunningham is satisfied he has discovered the cause of the explosion at the Harwick mine and the room in which it recurred.

the homes and needs in other directions showed themselves.

Mothers' meetings were held every menth, so that mother and kindergarten could come in touch with each other and together discuss better methods of true child training.

A sewing school was started for the girls over seven years, and a night school for boys and girls who were busy at work through the day. Classes in reading, writing, arithmetic, bookkeeping and physical culture were attended, and one night a week was given to recreation and music.

Two years ago the Woman's Christian Association gave up this work, owing to lack of funds, but earnest work of this kind does not stop in spite of struggle and discouragement.

A small, but earnest, band of men and women formed a league known as the install cast well and expectation.

SINCE ORGANIZATION, this kind does not stop in spite of strugtic and discouragement.

A small, but earnest, band of men and women formed a league known as the "Social and Educational League" of Richmond, whose aim is to take an active interest in all that pertains to the high-cast development of children in their physical, mental and spiritual nature; to raise the standard of home life; to secure earnest co-operation between parent and teacher; and in every way to promote the social, moral and educational welfare of the neighborhood in which its members work.

"Togother" is our watchword, workers together with God our motte; help us by your sympathy, talents or contributions to carry on this work, in our schools and social club five different anatomalities are represented, seven churches and ten business corners of this city. About thirty-five children come to the kindergarten, fifty girls are enrolled in the sewing school and about thirty attend the night clubs at different times.

A religious service is held once a week at night.

We need a manual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need more books for our library and games for the club. We need earnest timen and women to ioin our league and help us in this neighborhood work. We need a more books for our library and games for the club. We need earnest timen and women to ioin our league and help us in this neighborhood work. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department and gymnasium for our boys. We need a meanual training department

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY Established 1871

PREMIUM INCOME. 1887-\$ 99,566.00 1888-\$127,049.00 1889-\$151,547.00 1890-\$ 234,547.00 1891-\$395,447.67 1892-\$475,520.24 1893-\$546,151.15 1894-\$*5*51,794.51 1895-\$591,380.56 1896-\$712,931.92 |897-\$*7*52,2|4.8*7* 1898-\$852,409.03 1899-\$ 937,900.79 1900-\$1,087,272.02 1901-\$1,151,662.87 1902-\$1,339,214.13 1903-\$1,510,293.80

# SEVENTEEN YEARS GROWTH

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1903.

ASSETS. Real estate, book value .. Mortgage loans on real estate..... 948,249 96 89,476 93 Loans on collateral..... Loans on company's policies..... 183,482 53 Bonds and stocks, book value..... Cash in banks and office...... 135,424 19 19,371 80 Market value of real estate, bonds and stocks, 30.817 81 over book value..... Net uncollected and deferred premiums and premium notes ..... 8,059 67 All other items..... Gross assets..... Deduct assets not admitted and ledger liabilities . . Total admitted assets.....\$1,565,414 33

OF VIRGINIA

#### LIABILITIES. Reservo, actuaries 4 per cent. and American 3 per cent., including special reserve......\$1,193,178 00 Death losses reported, but not due...... 14,455 00. Premiums paid in advance..... All other Habilities.....

Total.....\$1,565,414 33

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DURING 1903. \$ 1.570.359.51 Total Number of Policies in Force..... Increase in Number of Policies in Force..... Death Claims, etc., Paid to Policy-Holders ...... \$491,862.87

TOTAL PAYMENTS TO POLICY-HOLDERS ...... \$5,505,996.68

J. G. WALKER, President.

T. WM. PEMBERTON, First Vice-President. J. W. PEGRAM, Second Vice-President. W. L. T. ROGERSON, Secretary.

Martin, wife of the proprietor of the hotel, lighted a candle, started for the kitchen to investigate. As she opened the door a most terrific explosion occurred. When the body of Mme. Martin was found it was almost decapitated, and the flesh was terribly burned. Her father husband and daughter also were instantly killed. The body of one of the patrons was hurled across the street by the force of the explosion and struck the opposite wall with great force.

SEND EXPEDITION

AGAINST PANAN

(By Associated Press.)

PANAMA, Jan. 30,—Nows has real patrons was hurled across the street by the force of the explosion and struck the opposite wall with great force.

Before the Court of Appeals. Before the Court of Appeals.

Mr. Daniel Coleman, Jr., of the firm of Miller & Coleman, of Norfolk city, is in the city to appear before the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia in the case of Northington vs. the Norfolk Railway and Light Company. This case when tried in the Court of Law and Chancery in Norfolk resulted in a verdict for to plaintiff, but the verdict was set aside by the court. The case is now before te appellate court on a writ of error to the tridgment of the Law and Chancery Court. Mr. R. B. Tunstall represents the appellate court on a couled Monday. This is Mr. Coleman's first case before the appellate court.

# AGAINST PANAMA

(By Associated Press.)
PANAMA, Jan. 30.—News has reached panama, Jan. 39.—Nows has restricted as the core of Reyes and General Cavallero have assured Colombia that the United States will only object to her landing forces in the canal zone, the Colombian government intends to organize and send an expedition against Panama.